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of Aracan got their opium from Yunan. It only required to extend that communication, as Captain Osborn suggested, in order to get the most profitable results. With respect to the King of Siam, Mr. Crawford had not done full justice to his acquirements. He was also a good Latin scholar, signing his name with Latin terminations; and the cards which he sent out quite rivalled any bridal cards he had ever seen.

MR. LAURENCE OLIPHANT, F.R.G.S., stated that Brigadier M'Leod had crossed from Moulmein into Yunan, with the object of diverting, if possible, a portion of the trade, which found its way down the Menam, to our settlements in the Bay of Bengal. The allusion in the paper to the bars at the mouths of these rivers was very important. The principal of these rivers was the Mekong, and the flag-lieutenant of the French admiral had informed him that it was the only river which he knew of in that part of the world, where there was no bar, and that there was twenty-eight feet of water on it. The importance, therefore, of that river was very evident.

The third Paper read was—

3. *Geographical Observations on Western Africa.* By DR. DELANY
and MR. R. CAMPBELL (Gentlemen of Colour).

DR. HODGKIN introducing these gentlemen observed, that the writings of Livingstone, whom this Society has so warmly supported, became known to the coloured people of America. They longed for the regions which he had described, and a company of free Negroes on the American soil wrote a letter to Dr. Shaw, dated Maddison, Wisconsin, May, 1858. That letter was placed in my hands, as one of your secretaries, to answer. I endeavoured to give the best information in my power in reply to the several points contained in it. The result was, that one coloured man, J. Mayers, went, at his own charge, with his son to the Cape, coming to England by the way, when I saw and advised with him. He has written to me from the Cape, and from Natal, and is now in the United States.

Two other coloured gentlemen of enterprise—a second Caleb and Joshua, it may be—went to the western coast of Africa, towards the headwaters of the Niger. The one, Dr. Delany, went to Liberia, on his way to Lagos; the other, R. Campbell, came to England; and through the benevolent aid of one of the Fellows of this Society, H. Christy, and of some others of our countrymen, found means to equip and go to Lagos, where the travellers met, and commenced the journey which they will presently describe.

I have only to add, that though the company of free American coloured persons looked to England almost exclusively, they have been aided by benevolent persons in America, and a society has been formed there, of which the secretary and agent, T. Bowren, is now in this country and attending your meeting, watching the interest which his coloured friends will excite as earnestly as would his English father have done were he alive and still carrying on his advocacy in favour of the sons of Africa.

DR. DELANY'S travels in Africa commenced at Grand Cape Mount, Liberia, where he visited every settlement except Carysburg, and traversing in part Stockton Creek, the Messurodo, St. Paul, Junk, and Kavalla rivers, to Cape Palmas, and from thence coasting to Lagos in the Bight of Benin.

From Lagos, by the Ogun river, he reached Abeokuta, and thence

to Illorin, a great Mahomedan city, populated by Houssas, Fulines (the Fullotahs of Denham and Clapperton), and Yoruba; the Fulines being the ruling people, though the Houssas are most numerous. The three languages are spoken in the Court, messages being made to the officer in Yoruba, conveyed to the King in Fulines, and answered by him in Houssa, the reply being returned in Yoruba. The route, on returning, was through Oyo, Iwo, and Iboddan, many towns and villages intervening between the large cities named through which they passed.

Granite, quartz, and limestone form the principal strata of these plateaus, and iron abounds in every region, each town of any note having iron-smelting establishments. The Grand Paul Mountains—the southern extremity of the great mountains of Kong—in the Webo, Kabo, and Dibo countries, forming the northern limits of Liberia, are composed of masses of quartz, as far as the eye can scan, towering from peak to peak like great white heaps of snow-capped summits. These quartz strata extend into Liberia, within ten miles of Abourovia, on the St. Paul. Iron about Monrovia is abundant, the town seeming to rest on a solid mass of iron-ore; some parts of Ashman-street show traces of the mineral. Mica also abounds.

The climate is good and frequently salubrious, the thermometer ranging from 70° to 90° Fahr. During the Harmattans—a dry, cold north-easterly wind of from two to four weeks' duration (and not a "dry, hot wind," as mistakingly called by some writers) in December and January—the mercury falls as low as 54° Fahr., when it in consequence is very cold, but seldom reaches 90°; the average temperature being 85° Fahr.

The diseases are simple and easily treated when properly understood by intelligent medical men. Intermittent fever, with various modifications of bilious, remittent, continued, and inflammatory, comprise the principal medical—and ophthalmia, from taint, and hernia those of surgical—diseases. Inflammatory is the worst type of fever known to these places: it doubtless being that which recently prevailed with such sad mortality in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

The soil throughout varies from a rich alluvial to a sandy loam, with ample capacity for every tropical production.

The woods are numerous, and, although as yet not scientifically nor well classified, from practical use enough is known of them to decide their quality for domestic purposes in building and furniture architecture. This has been fully tested in the Webo, Kabo, and Dibo countries, where they make a handsome native chair of a

beautiful straight-grained, smooth red mahogany ; also in Liberia, Egba, and Yoruba.

The acasia or senna, jalap, castor and croton oil, and nux-vomica plants and fruits are abundant ; also what Dr. Delany. calls gum Yoruba, the same as gum Arabic, is found in these regions. Though not a medical article, the gum-elastic tree is a flourishing native plant.

The cattle are of two distinct classes, with contingent modifications : the Mandingo, or "windward," a very fine, tall, well-proportioned, long-horned ox, an exact type of that peculiar class of English-bred beeves ; and the Golah, or "leeward," a large, heavy, short-legged, and short-horned animal, closely resembling the British-bred Durham. Their modifications consist of an undergrowth of the Golah, generally found about Monrovia, and a mixture seemingly of the Mandingo and Golah, producing an animal larger than either, with a modified conformation of both. The male of this mixed class is a huge animal of almost elephantine proportions, having gradually rising shoulders like those of the Brahmin bull. These cattle are very gentle, and generally attended in the Egba and Yoruba countries, when in large numbers, by herdsmen : the cows producing excellent milk and butter.

There are two classes of horses, with a modification. The Sudan (known as the Arabian horse) is a noble animal of from twelve to fourteen hands high, well proportioned, symmetrically beautiful, and a type of the description given to the sire of the great English-bred "Godolphin," the first blooded-horse. The so-called Arabian horse abounds in the region of our travels ; their original nativity being Sudan, from whence the Arabs, purchasing them in large numbers, send them to Europe as their own production.

The Yoruba horse, a small animal, is equal in size to the largest American-Indian pony, and is generally what is termed in America of a "mouse colour." They are very enduring and the best adapted to travel in the present paths and roads of Africa. The modified is a mixture of both classes, being an animal of various proportions and colours, from the size of the Yoruba nearly to that of the Sudan horse.

The swine, which present two distinct classes, consist of the Guinea—a short-nosed, short-eared, full-headed, heavy-bodied animal—favouring the English Berkshire ; and a domesticated descendant of the wild hog—a narrow-faced, long-nosed, long-eared, tall, slender brute—a type of the American species. These have their minor modifications, producing an intermediate class.

The popular deity in the Yoruba and Egba nations is Sango, represented by a ram's head or a black ram; being the god who avenges by fire called from heaven. This is precisely typical of Jupiter Ammon, the god of Egypt, represented with ram's horns, seated on a throne of gold and ivory, attended by a phoenix (some call it an eagle) with extended wings, grasping in his right hand the thunderbolts of heaven and holding in his left the sceptre of universal power. Sango is always represented as elevated and being all powerful among the people.

Dr. Delany finally mentioned that the adventure originated from a large portion of the intelligent and educated descendants of the Africans in the United States and the Canadas, who are anxiously desirous by their own efforts and self-reliance to regenerate their father-land.

LORD A. CHURCHILL, M.P., F.R.G.S., said he was interested in the movement which had brought his friend Dr. Delany to this country, and he purposed in a very few words to explain its object. There were some four millions of slaves in the United States, and they were kept entirely for the production of articles of commerce, of which England consumed a very large proportion. There were also in the North and in Canada a great number of free men of colour, and many of them were gentlemen of high and liberal education. The object in which many of the coloured free men of America were now engaged was to regenerate and civilise their own continent. The expedition up the Niger, five-and-twenty years ago, failed in consequence of the climate being too severe for European constitutions. An effort to open up the country was about to be made again by these free men of colour in the United States. Their constitutions were well able to stand the heats of the climate. The head of the Society which had undertaken this movement was the Rev. H. Garnett, a gentleman well known in the United States, and Mr. Barnes, a commentator on the Scriptures. Mr. Campbell and Dr. Delany had been sent over by the Society to endeavour to make terms with the native chiefs, and he was happy to say they were on their way back after having concluded a most satisfactory treaty with the King of Abeokuta, and also made amicable settlements with the native chiefs of other districts, for the purpose of enabling men of colour to return to that country and settle there, and enjoy all the rights of citizenship. He believed that by this means a great and strong blow would be struck at the slave-trade, and that it would at the same time lead to the production of one of the great commodities which we required in this country—that was cotton. Cotton was one of those materials, the growth of which we ought to encourage in all parts of the world, for next to food it was of the greatest possible importance to us.

MR. HANSON, H. M. Consul at the Sherboro (a gentleman of colour), said it struck him that in speaking of the civilisation of the African race, we were apt to overlook the fact that there were large populations in that country, and to suppose that the first thing we had to do was to populate the country in order to develop its resources. He believed the population of Africa was somewhere about 90,000,000, and, therefore, the 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 in the United States would be but a drop in the bucket. There was an aspect, however, in which the return of the negro population from America was to him of the greatest importance. If, instead of going to Africa to constitute separate communities, the people who came from America would incorporate themselves into the

indigenous race, and seek to elevate them by their superior information and knowledge of the arts, then no doubt great good would result. With reference to the subject of cotton, it was too late to challenge a discussion on the subject; but he believed he was quite right in saying that Africa was the home of the cotton-plant, and that it surely could be produced in a country to which it was indigenous. It was well known that cotton was grown and manufactured up the valley of the Niger as far as Mungo Park went, and also in the regions which Dr. Delany visited, and again in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, as well as up the valley of the Senegal and the Gambia. He was not presumptuous in stating these facts, because he had gone over a great portion of the country to which he had referred. If the Negroes from America, who had been well disciplined in the best modes of cultivating cotton, would go into Africa and teach their native brethren what they themselves had learned, some of the gentlemen present might live to see the day when a great portion of the cotton, now supplied by the United States, might come to us from Africa.

SIR RODERICK MURCHISON, V.P.R.G.S., next called attention to the presence of two Maori chiefs from New Zealand, who had been brought to Europe by Dr. Hochstetter, of the Austrian expedition, in the frigate *Novara*. They had been to Vienna, and Dr. Hochstetter had brought them to this country to see them off to their native land, for which they would embark in a few days. When Dr. Hochstetter mentioned the circumstance to him, he thought the Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society would like to see these gentlemen, and he for one confessed he should like to hear one of them address the meeting for a few moments in his own native language. Dr. Hochstetter informed him that they had been taught how to print, and that in Vienna every step had been taken to instruct them in the various arts of life. Dr. Hochstetter then introduced the chief Toe-Toe, who addressed the meeting in a few words in his native language.

The PRESIDENT finally announced that Captains Speke and Grant had started on their expedition to Eastern Africa, and stated that since they had left this country they had found out that there were dangers to be encountered of which Captain Speke was possibly not aware. During only two months of the year would he find boats on the White Nile to take them into more civilised parts, but should he chance to arrive in any of the other ten months, he would not meet with that mode of conveyance and would be exposed to great dangers. Consul Petherick, from Khartum, could meet him with a large force and escort him through the country, but Consul Petherick could hardly be expected to do this at his own expense; and as the Government declined making any farther grant, the Council of the Society had departed from their usual rules, and had headed a subscription with 100*l.* towards defraying those expenses. He only hoped that many gentlemen would contribute towards so good and so just an object.

SIR RODERICK MURCHISON said he had only to add that when Captain Speke had reached the most northerly extremity of Lake Nyanza, he would have to traverse two or three degrees of latitude through most hostile tribes, whose territory no traveller had yet succeeded in passing; and it would be found almost impossible to provision the party accompanying him, unless he was assisted from the north by Mr. Petherick, whose knowledge of the country, language, and habits of the barbarous tribes near the Equator, would prove of the very greatest value to this most important expedition.
